

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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FIRE EARLY DETECTION AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

On August 26, 2009, a fire was started within the Angeles National Forest and eventually became known as the Station Fire. It consumed over 160,000 acres and was the largest fire in Los Angeles County history. Los Angeles County's many local jurisdictions contiguous to the Angeles National Forest present challenges to fire officials when it comes to wildfire detection, prevention and suppression. The recent massive and destructive Station Fire cost local taxpayers \$89 million to fight and millions more in infrastructure recovery costs. Tragically, two Los Angeles County firefighters, Fire Captain Ted Hall and Fire Fighter Specialist Arnie Quinones, lost their lives trying to protect their fire suppression camp headquarters during the fifth day of this fire. The Station Fire graphically spotlights the need to study and identify solutions for establishing an automated early detection system and rapid, all weather, 24-hour response system to suppress forest and brush fires at the source.

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MOTION

Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Molina	_____

Many of the major fires in recent years have been well underway before any firefighting is deployed. Existing technologies used in other fields can be useful in creating an efficient early detection and response system to prevent rapid early growth of a fire. All weather terrain avoidance mapping systems in aircraft and sensor technology are examples of technologies used in other jurisdictions that can be used to respond to fires earlier. The goal of a technology based system would be to identify new fires as they start and have a programmed airborne response within minutes to suppress the fire before it spreads. Differences in policy or technology should be addressed now before the next fire season begins. New technological solutions should be developed with the goal of establishing an automated early detection system and rapid, all weather, 24-hour response system to suppress forest and brush fires at the source.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Quality and Productivity Commission to study and present solutions for establishing an automated early detection system and rapid, all weather, 24-hour response system to suppress forest and brush fires at the source, and report back to the Board in 120 days.

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